April 10, 2014

Sustainable campus celebrates Earth Day on April 17

Sacramento State’s free Earth Day Celebration promises to be a fun, educational experience for the campus community and Sacramento residents.

Walking tours, a recyclables collection center, informative displays and food trucks serving healthy fare will be among the attractions available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Library Quad. And everyone who participates in multiple activities and completes an Earth Day Scavenger Hunt passport card will get the chance to play on some fun inflatables.

“Earth Day is an opportunity to bring together students, faculty, staff, businesses and members of the community for a unified objective of promoting and inspiring awareness and appreciation for what we individually and collectively can do to preserve and improve the environment,” says Jewel Barton, interim director of Sustainability and Plant Operations at Sacramento State. “Please take advantage of this opportunity to participate and learn.”

Here is the 2014 Earth Day Celebration lineup:

Walking tours

10 a.m., University Arboretum – Michael Baad, emeritus professor of biological sciences and arboretum director, leads a 45-minute tour of the 3-acre botanic garden, which boasts shrubs, trees and herbaceous perennials from around the world.

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., STORC (Sustainable Technology Outdoor Research Center) – An open house highlights ongoing sustainable technology projects, including biodiesel production and solar water purification systems, a bio-toilet, a food waste composter, an aquaponics system and stormwater research.

11 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., Library Quad fountain – Two 45-minute tours highlight Sacramento State’s role as a sustainable campus.

Learn something about the environment and sustainability

Among the 40 vendors who will provide information about environmental and sustainable efforts are the City of Sacramento, PG&E, the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Zipcar and the Sacramento Management Transportation Association. SMUD will bring in several electric vehicles, and a class of Sac State environmental
studies students will offer two exhibits: vermicomposting (composting with worms) and “re-growing kitchen scraps.”

Bring your recyclables to campus

Items accepted for responsible recycling include electronic waste; ink and toner cartridges; all light bulbs; household batteries; used car batteries; expired or unused prescription drugs (including over-the-counter and pet meds); used cooking oil; latex paint in its original labeled can; and bottles, cans and plastic items.

Donate unwanted clothing and shoes

Sac State’s Alpha Chi Omega sorority will accept clothing items, and the Newman Catholic Community at Sacramento State will collect donated shoes. All donations must be “gently used” or new and will be given to local charities.

Have something to eat and drink

Food trucks serving healthy cuisine will include OM Karmabile (Indian fusion), Cruzin’ Crustacean from Rudy’s Hideaway, Papa Dale’s Bayou Diner, Green Papaya (Lao and Thai street food) and Luciano’s Scoop (gelato and sorbet.)

Mulching Mania is on Day 2 of the Earth Day Celebration

Sac State’s Earth Day observance continues Friday, April 18, with Mulching Mania. Volunteers from Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the Sacramento Tree Foundation will spread 15 cubic yards of mulched leaves, finely chopped bark and wood, delivered by the City of Sacramento, around trees near Eureka and Capistrano halls. The compost will keep roots cool and moist, which is vital for the trees’ well-being during the drought. The volunteers will work from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Earth Day at Sacramento State is organized by the Sustainability team and the Environmental Student Organization. For more information on their efforts, email sustainability@csus.edu or go to Sac State Sustainability’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SustainabilityatSacState. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Dixie Reid

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